

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE Association
Including RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K.L. Duncan (Rtd)

President's Message

Next year will be the 50th arrival of the first two LSMs being AV1354 Brudenell White into sailed from Yokosuka in Japan and delivery squadron task force "Krait of Major Jimmy Wilson and Sydney on 31 December 1959 via To celebrate this occasion your feasibility of holding a function or



anniversary of the procurement and AV1353 Harry Chauvel and Sydney Harbour. The vessels were crewed by members of the LSM Two" and were under the command Captain John Hearn arriving in Guam, Rabaul and Brisbane. committee is looking at the ceremony to mark the occasion.

Vietnam Veteran's Day held on Monday 18 August at the RAE Vietnam Memorial, The School of Military Engineering, Steele Barracks at Moorebank, was a moving service and the organising committee are to be congratulated. The address was by Colonel Mike Hyde, Colonel Commandant Eastern Region RAE. The choir was made up of students from Wattle Grove Primary School. They gave the service a nice touch. The only downer on the day was that the weather was freezing.

The day at SME also gave members and their guests the opportunity to visit the Australian Army Museum of Military Engineering managed and operated by The Military Engineering Heritage Company.

I received an email from Mrs. Traci Foro seeking information from or possible contact with ex-crew members who sailed with her late father Corporal David Alan Hansen who passed away when she was very young. Dave's service in Vietnam was on AV1353 Harry Chauvel , 23 October 1967-21 March 1968, 21 May 1970-6 June 1970 and 11 November-15 December 1970. I have compiled a crew list of his first deployment and informed her of notable crew members being Captain (Master) Fred Hartnack, Second Mate WO2 Frank (now Ian) Johnston, Dave Thomas, Bungy Waters and Barry Woods. If anyone has photos or information about Dave she [would be very grateful. Please contact the Secretary if you can help.](#)

On behalf of the Patron and Committee I wish all members and their families a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Ocka

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE



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CREW LISTS AND VOYAGES INDEX

Les McFadzen, a member of our Association, is putting together a list of crews and all voyages undertaken by 32 Small Ship Squadron vessels so we can update our records. We all know that most of these details are non-existent and some records held by DVA are incorrect. The voyages shown below may not be accurate in all cases and there a lot of question marks so to get the correct details could you refer to your own records (or memory) and advise him of the voyage dates and destinations along with your regimental number, rank at that time, full name and your posting (e.g. seaman, cook, etc). Les can be contacted on (07) 3824 0825 or his address is: 6 Ackworth Place, Alexander Hills Qld 4161 or email mcfadzen@bigpond.net.au.

Year	Voyage Dates	Destination	Vessel
1959	? - ?	Delivery from Japan	All LSMs
1960	? - ?	Bne - Tvl	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
1961	? Sep – Nov ? - ?	PNG PNG	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele 4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
1962	? - ?	Hobart	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
1963	? Jun - ? Jul ? Sep - ? Oct	PNG Exercise Carbine	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele 1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
1964	1 Apr - ? 1 Apr - ? 5 May – 3 Aug 5 May – 1 Aug (approx) ? - ? ? - ? 10 Sep – 10 Dec 24 Sep – 21 Oct	Jervis Bay Jervis Bay Malaysia (Borneo) Malaysia (Borneo) PNG PNG PNG Exercise Longshot	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel 3 Troop, AV 1355 Vernon Sturdee 2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel 3 Troop, AV1355 Vernon Sturdee 1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele 1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele 4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White 1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
1965	15 Feb – 3 Apr 30 Apr – 11 Jun 5 May – 16 Jul 30 Aug – 17 Sep 5 Oct – 26 Nov 19 Oct – 29 Nov 21 May - ?	PNG PNG PNG PNG PNG Lord Howe Delivery Voyage	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele 2 Troop AV1353 Harry Chauvel 1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele 3 Troop, AV 1355 Vernon Sturdee 4 Troop AV1354 Brudenell White 3 Troop, AV 1355 Vernon Sturdee AS3051 John Monash
1966	11 Apr – 25 Jun 5 May – 14 May 25 Feb – 9 Jun 26 Jun – 23 Nov (cont) 3 Dec – 9 Jan [67] 9 Aug – 26 Aug 15 Aug – 17 Oct 1 Nov – 27 Nov	SVN SVN PNG SVN SVN SVN PNG PNG	3 Troop, AV 1355 Vernon Sturdee AS 3051 John Monash 1 Troop AV1356 Clive Steele 1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele AS 3051 John Monash 4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White 4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White



1967	17 Jan – 16 Mar	SVN	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
	23 Jan – 8 Jun (cont)	SVN	3 Troop, AV 1355 Vernon Sturdee
	8 Jun – 14 Dec	SVN	
	? - ?	Tin Can Bay	AS 3051 John Monash
	5 Jul – 8 Oct	PNG	AS 3051 John Monash
	18 Oct – 28 Nov	PNG	1 Troop AV1356 Clive Steele
	1 Mar – 10 Aug	PNG	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	23 Oct – 21 Mar [68]	SVN	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
	3 Dec – 31 Jan [68]	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash
1968	29 Jan – 23 Dec (cont)	SVN	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
	23 Dec – 27 Apr [69]	SVN	
	17 Feb – 31 Mar	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash
	6 Jun – 12 Jun	Sea trials	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
	20 Jun	Ammo dump-Sydney	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
	24 Jun – 27 Jul	NZ	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
	2 Dec – 26 Dec	Darwin	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	6 Dec – 10 Jan [69]	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash
1969	26 Jan – 24 Feb	NZ	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	10 Feb – 15 Mar	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash
	22 Apr – 23 Jul	PNG	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	21 Jul – 2 Mar [70]	SVN	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
	17 Aug – 30 Sep	NZ	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	25 Oct – 7 Dec	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash
1970	21 May – 6 Jun	SVN	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
	11 Jul – 3 Sep	SVN	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
	22 Sep – 24 Oct	SVN	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	23 Sep - 1 Oct	King Island	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
	11 Nov – 15 Dec	SVN	2 Troop, AV 1353 Harry Chauvel
1971	2 Mar – 12 Mar	SVN	1 Troop, AV 1356 Clive Steele
	9 Mar – 14 Apr	Darwin (turned back En route SVN)	4 Troop, AV 1354 Brudenell White
	30 Jul – 14 Aug	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash
	5 Oct – 20 Oct	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash *
1972	2 Aug – 13 Aug	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash *
	31 Aug – 8 Sep	SVN	AS 3051 John Monash *
	2 Nov – 1 Dec	Clarence River	AS 3051 John Monash *
1973	5 Apr – 13 Jul	Singapore	AS 3051 John Monash *
	8 Aug – 3 Oct	Indonesia	AS 3051 John Monash *

Notes:

1. 32 Small Ship Squadron disbanded 30 September 1971.
2. Crew & vessel movements indicated * were under command 1 Terminal Group (I think)



VOLUNTEER EXTRORDINAIRE – LES DENNIS

In our last newsletter the President advised that Les Dennis, one of our longest serving members and a past President of our Association, had an Australian Volunteer Coast Guard rescue vessel named after him. Well, we've managed to track down some details of the event, as follows:

“An Awards and Commissioning Ceremony was held at the Coast Guard Base at Cottage Point (Broken Bay, Sydney) on 13 April 2008. Operational and Service awards were presented to personnel by Mrs Judy Hopwood MP, State Government member for Hornsby. The commissioning of the vessel was carried out by The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, Federal member for Mackellar. The Flotilla Commander, Commander Elizabeth Watts, gave the criteria used for selecting the person who the boat will be named after. This is an excerpt from her speech:

“We have many members, currently numbering over 40 who turn up regularly and without these people we could not do what we do. We all bring our own particular skills, talents and idiosyncrasies to the flotilla, but let me paint you a picture of the perfect volunteer Coast Guard member. They:

- *Cheerfully get out of bed at sunrise on a Saturday or Sunday,
- *Enjoy working as a team,
- *Obey instructions and commands,
- *Take on responsibilities and lead others,
- *Go the second mile when helping someone out,
- *Never complain,
- *Cook a mean “Bunnings” sausage sandwich to raise money to buy the boat fuel,
- *Stand in shopping centres or boat ramps all day, selling raffle tickets,
- *Attend courses on cold winter nights to either learn or teach, year after year,
- *Organise events,
- *Attend boat shows and answer all questions (with the correct answer),
- *When asked for a duty swap, refuse to swap but will do an extra duty, without asking anything in return,
- *Are here for the long haul,
- *Are loved and respected by all and yet are incredibly humble.

We have many who fit this description, but today we would like to recognise Mr Les Dennis who fits this description better than most. In honour of all the regular members of the flotilla, we have named our new vessel the “**Les Dennis**”.

After the vessel was commissioned the official party was taken for a tour of the local waterway on board the newly named vessel, and skippered by Les Dennis.

Note that Les may have had an unfair advantage over the other contenders because a fair bit of the above criteria applied to him during his time in the Army. Well, apart from getting out of bed at sunrise on the weekend. What about the other five days? I don't know about obeying instructions and commands either – I recall that every order given by someone over the rank of Corporal was questioned long and hard! Anyway, Les, top marks for a well deserved recognition in a fine volunteer organisation. We salute your exemplary service and dedication in donating your time, knowledge and experience to such a good cause. Well done!





Skipper, Les Dennis at the helm of Coast Guard Rescue Vessel, CG032 "Les Dennis" a 6.9 m aluminium boat powered by two 135hp Honda outboards which can propel it at 33 knots.

ALBURY AMBUSH 2009

Most of us would now be aware of the Albury Ambush, the Water Transport Reunion sponsored by Kevin and Lynne Morley, to be held in October 2009. It will be at the Lake Hume Resort just outside Albury and will be held during the weekend 16 to 18 October 2009. Kevin advised that he has received over 90 replies to the invitation with more coming in every day. He said that a final letter will be sent out in the new year, so if you are intending to come to the reunion and haven't yet replied better make it quick because the function room that has been booked has a maximum seating capacity of 300, so first in best dressed.

If anyone has not received a letter providing details of the event, and would like to attend, please contact Kevin or Lynne Morley on either 041 642 5718 or 02 6040 3498 and they will send the details, booking form and accommodation guide to you.

DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following members who have made donations this year: Vaughn Ruddick, Jock Balfour, Graeme Inglis, Wayne Summerhayes, Ray Mazurek, Bob Madgwick, Mike Priest, Noel Norton, Sid Cheeseman, Jim Brown, Jerry Davey, Arthur Jackson, Bill Bott, John Sahariv, Les Dennis, Phil Cameron, John Bryant, Don Weimer, Ken Burchill, Brian Willcock, Brian Hart and David Gray.

Again, thanks for your kind generosity. If I have inadvertently missed anyone please let me know and I'll remedy it in the next newsletter.



VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY – SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

18 AUGUST 2008

On Monday 18 August 2008 a ceremony for Vietnam Veterans' Day was held at the RAE Vietnam Memorial at the School of Military Engineering. It was a cold, grey morning with a wind blowing over us which (I believe) came straight from the snow capped mountains of the Great Dividing Range. However we had a good turn up with over 90 veterans, families, friends and guests. The service was conducted by RAE Vietnam Memorial committee member, Peter Allen, OAM and SMEs Chaplain Mau Mau Monu. SME also provided the Catafalque Party and Flag Orderly from the Trade Training Squadron. The bugler was from the Australian Army Band – Sydney, and the piper, Pipe Sergeant Peter Jakobsson, was from Ingleburn RSL Pipes and Drums.

The Guest Speaker was Colonel Mike Hyde, the Colonel Commandant, Royal Australian Engineers, Eastern Region. He spoke about our initial involvement in Vietnam of sending advisers of Australian Army Training Team Vietnam in 1962, and the first major deployment in 1965 of the 1 RAR Battalion Group to Bien Hoa which included 3 Field Troop. He also mentioned the tasks and responsibilities of all RAE units that served in Vietnam until the withdrawal in 1972.



Speedie Sahariv after laying a wreath for 55 Advanced Engineer Stores Squadron Association
Peter Allen, OAM at the podium

Colonel Hyde outlined the current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan where many members of RAE are deployed including 1 Field Squadron and 17 Construction Squadron. He spoke of the deeds of Delta Company 6RAR at Long Tan. He concluded by recalling the sadness and loss of RAE comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice and those who still suffer from the wounds and service in Vietnam. A very moving address indeed.

After the service the Heritage Precinct, including the Museum and the Corps Shop, were opened and various displays were visited. Lunch was served at the Sportsman's Club where we could meet old friends over a couple of quiet ones. It is intended that this service will be conducted



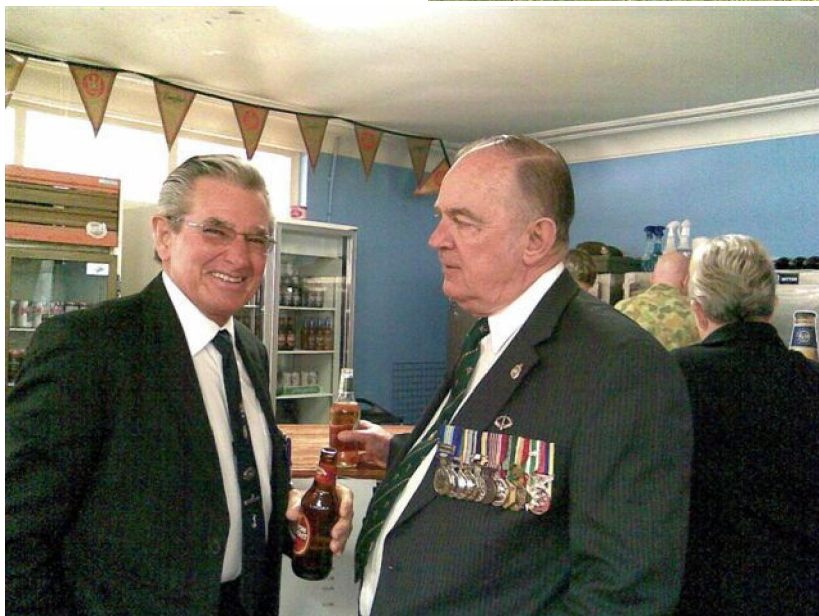
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annually at the RAE Vietnam Memorial on 18 August, so why not mark it on next years diary and bring the family along

Members and guests of our Association who attended were: Graham and Anthony Murray, Ken Duncan, Cec Weekes (Secretary AWTA), Ross McMurray, Speedie Sahariv with Bert Hagel from 55 Advanced Engineer Stores Squadron Association, Bruce Reilly, Brian and Val Waites, Brian Hart, Geoff Summergreene and Jacqueline Hardie, Ian Johnston, Lance Northey and Jack Peel who is the Chairman of the RAE Vietnam Memorial Committee.

Full marks to the Commanding Officer and staff of the School of Military Engineering who made a big effort to ensure that that all present experienced a respectful Memorial Service followed by an enjoyable afternoon. Well done!

An Association gathering before the Service. L to R Colonel Ken Duncan, Ian Johnston, Geoff Summergreene, Bruce Reilly, Lance Northey, Brian Waites, Graham Murray and Brian Hart.



Bruce Reilly and Jack Peel in the Sportsmans' Bar after the service.



ARMY APPRENTICES REUNION

During the weekend 24 – 26 October 2008 the 60th Anniversary of the Army Apprentices School (AAS) was celebrated in Albury and Bandiana. The AAS was first located at Balcombe Victoria along with the Army School of Signals and the School of Survey. In 1982 it was relocated to Bonegilla Victoria where it remained until 1995. After that the Adult Trade Training Scheme was implemented to train Army tradesmen and women. Over 8000 Australian youths were trained at Balcombe and Bonegilla between 1948 and 1995. Many of the members of our Association are Army Apprentices; mainly fitters and turners and electricians who slaved in the engine rooms of our vessels, along with our RAEME radar mechanics. You may remember the late Allan Punch who was an electrician from the first intake of 1948. In fact the corps of RAE had many Army Apprentices who became carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, vehicle mechanics, draughtsmen, blacksmiths, clerks and musicians. (Remember the RAE Band)? And all were also field engineers.

On Saturday 25 October the apprentices marched through Albury CBD, finishing with a Lord Mayors Reception. That afternoon a Wreath Laying Ceremony took place at Latchford Barracks Chapel, Bonegilla and at night an Anniversary Dinner was held at the Albury Convention Centre. The Guest of Honour was the Patron of the Army Apprentices Association and Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM. He is also a Sapper (as we know) and an Army Apprentice bricklayer.

On Sunday there was a Dedication Service to the new Army Apprentices School Memorial at Gaza Ridge Barracks followed by a barbeque lunch and a tour through the Army Museum Bandiana. What a fantastic weekend! 800 people turned up. It could not have occurred without the planning and dedication of the Australian Army Apprentices Association committee of which our own Frank Poole is President. Well done Frank!

Our Association members who attended were: Allan Reading, Mal Campbell, Jerry Davey, Ken Boyle, Ross McMurray, John McGregor, Kerry Stuart, Allan Bensley, Sid Cheeseman, Bruce Glossop, Ian Graham and of course Frank Poole.



Frank Poole with Lt Gen Ken Gillespie, AO DSC CSM, Chief of the Australian Army.



WEEKEND AT WHITE CLIFFS

By Dave Perham

About a thousand kilometers north-west of Sydney lies the town of White Cliffs. If one were looking for a most unlikely place to hold a Small Ship get-together then this remote, idyllic opal mining town would be a top pick.

Long time residents of White Cliffs, Rod and Sue Cooke (The Cookie's) put on a just such an occasion over the weekend 16th to 19th October. This do was well attended with some fifty starters from all over Australia including a couple of long lost crew, Fred Owen and Roger Finn.

The Cookie's, together with the rest of the townspeople, went to great lengths to make sure the Small Ship types and their partners felt involved and right at home. A few of the highlights were; a fashion parade, flights over the town, a visit to an extraordinary four bedroom underground home and the Lake Peery National Park.

The main event of the occasion was the cricket match between the townsfolk and the "Army Boat People". This hard fought test, worthy of any international 20-20, was played on the towns "Bill O'Reilly" oval and resulted in a draw after some interesting score-keeping!

An excellent Saturday evening dinner saw Robbie Robinson presented with the "Star Picquet" award for his diligence in maintaining security and decorum. Also a raffle was held in aid of the "Flying Doctor" raising much needed funds for this outstanding organization.

On the Sunday John Purcell contacted Ian McNamara of the ABCs "Australia All Over" radio program. John went on air to tell Australia about the Army Small Ship's, the crews, their role in peace and war and about our get-together. A short while later there were mobile phones going off as other crew contacted mates at White Cliffs. Pays to advertise!

Well Done the Cookies! A top weekend all round.



Cookie's
Water
Transport
Eleven –
White Cliffs

October 2008



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VALE – JOHN LEISHMAN

As stated in our last newsletter, we were saddened to learn that John Leishman passed away on 16 June 2008. As you know John initiated, developed and managed our web site.

He enlisted in the Army in 1962. Following recruit training at Kapooka and FE training at SME he was posted to 32 Small Ship Squadron as a seaman. In 1964 he served on *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* on its operational service in Borneo. In 1966 he was promoted to Corporal and posted to 1 Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka as an instructor, and remained there until he elected discharge in 1968.

John was employed in several sales positions in Adelaide after leaving the Army and came to Darwin in 1972 to examine business possibilities. He undertook various marketing positions there before forming a public accounting and tax agent partnership in 1976. He sold this practice in 1985 and later started his own computer consulting company where he designed and managed websites, including ours (and at no cost). He also undertook study at the NT University where he obtained a B.Business degree.

John became a director with Asia North Pty Ltd as a project manager and was involved in various large developmental construction projects. He was instrumental in forging a close relationship between Australia and Indonesia and was a past chairman of the Australia-Indonesia Business Council (NT Branch) as well as an office holder in the national Australia-Indonesia Business Council Ltd. He was written up in his local newspaper as having a great affinity with business and community groups in Indonesia, and this was wonderfully exemplified when he assisted in the recovery of the local community after the Kuta bombings in Bali in October 2002.

On behalf of members of 32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association we join with John's many friends to offer our sympathy to his wife, Jill Rechner, Trenton Leishman his son, Val daughter-in-law, Adam Gemmell stepson and Sharon Gemmell stepdaughter. John was a staunch member and supporter of our Association and we will miss his timely advice and good humour.

VALE – PETER BERNAYS

Some of our members may remember Peter Bernays, a National Serviceman who served on *AS3051 John Monash* in Vietnam late in 1972. Prior to his Army service he was a fitter and turner at Garden Island Naval Dockyard. Sadly he died after a brain operation at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne on 9 November 2001. Peter's father provided the following information about him after he left the Army:

“He went back to Garden Island and continued work as a fitter and turner, and a draftsman. Later he took up a position in New Plymouth, NZ, with Global Engineering, a US company, as a draftsman where he was involved with drawing plans for the supply of natural gas in the North Island. While there he met and married Susan, a local girl, and they had two children. He was later transferred to Sale, Victoria where he did similar work for Global Engineering.”



VALE – JOHN JONES

We were recently informed that John Jones, a National Serviceman from Newcastle, died on 22 September 2003. His mother advised that he had a bad fall, injuring some ribs. He then developed pneumonia, had a heart attack and died shortly after. Members may remember him serving on *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AS3051 John Monash* in Vietnam in 1967/68.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard the following members who have joined us since the last newsletter:

Kevin Yesberg served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam. He lives in Tully Qld. He must like it up there in tropical North Queensland because he was also born in Tully.

Robert Gaylard also served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam. He lives at Arcadia Vale NSW.

Ray Winter served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* and *AS3051 John Monash* in Vietnam. He lives at Kunghur NSW.

Barry Dyson served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1354 Brudenell White* in Vietnam. He lives at Drouin Vic.

Wayne Rush, Royal Australian Corps of Signals, served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*, *AV1354 Budenell White*, *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee*, *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AS3051 John Monash*, and in 40 Water Transport Squadron (Heavy) on *L129 Balikpapan*. Wayne lives in the Philippines.

Ross Hayes served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam on *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AS3051 John Monash*. He lives at Toogoom Qld.

Greg Love served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*. He lives at Warners Bay (near Newcastle) NSW.

Andy Cutten, Royal Australian Corps of Signals, served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*, *AV1354 Brudenell White*, and in Vietnam on the *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee*, *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AS3051 John Monash*. He lives at Bowral NSW.

Allan Bensley, RAEME, served as a radar mechanic with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam on *AV1356 Clive Steele* and also with 131 Divisional Locating Battery. He also served on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* and *AV1354 Brudenell White*. Allan lives at Gilgandra NSW.

Barry Bailey served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1379 Tarra*, *AS3051 John Monash*, *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* and in Vietnam on *AV1356 Clive Steele*. He also served in 24 Construction Squadron and the Tropical Trials and Research Unit at Tully. Barry lives at Medowie NSW.



THOUGHTS FROM OUR POET LAUREATE

John “Speedie” Sahariv thinks we need a bit of a shake up now and then in order not to take things for granted, and to keep in touch with mates, and to look out for each other. I think he is right and perhaps we all need to heed his advice. He goes on...

“Many comrades and mates I have served with are departing us. I pick up the newsletters from various associations I am affiliated with and read of the passing of one or another of these blokes. Memories come flooding back; good times, bad times and sad times!

“My reaction is a personal one. Needless to say sadness and even remorse at such news is prevalent – especially when one remembers, “I better contact so and so” and then fail to do so for one reason or another.

“To remind members of our Association of the need to maintain or re-establish contact with old mates I have penned a little poem which may be worthy enough to find a place in our newsletter.”

I LOOK AROUND MY FRIENDS TO SEE

I look around my friends to see
Oh those memories bring some glee
We're no longer brash and young
Although we still are, to some

I look around my friends to see
Read the newsletter, how do I feel?
Saddened to read some no longer here
Makes me wonder is my time near

I look around my friends to see
Close my eyes to shed a tear
And wished like hell I hadn't let go
That contact we had so long ago

You look around your friends to see
No longer should you let them be
The Reaper comes all too soon
And all you'll have left is an empty room.

Speedie Sahariv
13 March 2008



SICK PARADE

Laurie Graham is fairly mobile once again after the replacement of two knees, two hips and half a kidney. He's still able to play bowls and goes on monthly bus trips with his bowling club. Good to see you're still able to have a beer and a laugh Laurie.

Alwyn Parry has improved a lot after he was fitted with a pacemaker. A year ago his prognosis was quite grim but he now enjoys a good quality of life. He's looking forward to meeting up with his son who spent the last six months in Afghanistan as a troop commander with Reconstruction Task Force Four. Good to see him following in father's footsteps as a Sapper. Stay well, Al.

Norm Mason has had a few problems lately. In June he was found to have cancer in his neck and throat and has been having aggressive treatment for it. It appears to have stabilized somewhat but Norm will have to wait until December when he will have a PETSCAN to find out if he's out of the woods. He's very positive about it all and is confident he'll be able to attend a lot more ANZAC Days at Hunters Hill. Good luck, Norm.

John Bryant is back on his feet after a successful knee replacement. He's not up to getting back to sailing just yet but should do so shortly.

BOOK PROGRESS

Well, the sales of "Rolling Through 32" have been consistently good. It sure is a popular read. Quite a few military book shops Australia wide now stock it including the Australian War Memorial bookshop and the RAE Corps Shop. It had a very good review in the NSW RSL newsletter, "Reveille". If you would like another copy (Christmas present?) drop a line to our address. It's still available at \$35.00 plus \$10.00 postage.

SAPPER MAGAZINE

The 2008 edition of SAPPER should be out some time next month. We will make enquiries about how to get a copy for those who would like one. Also, for those who are on the net you can obtain the Army Newspaper at www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews

There's good reading in "Army" and you can keep up to date with all the things that are happening now with the Defence Force and look at all the clothing, equipment, pay and conditions that you missed out on! On second thoughts maybe it would be best if you didn't know these things.



RAE HERITAGE PRECINCT

When next visiting Sydney why not call in to SME at Steele Barracks and visit the RAE Heritage Precinct. For those who have not been there for a while there have been some recent significant changes in the area. Also in the Precinct are:

- The New Museum Building
- Steele Bridge
- RAE Vietnam Memorial
- Bicentennial Building and Bridges
- RAE Memorial
- Army Engineer Museum
- CUST Hut (full of vehicles, plant and machinery)

Outside the Army Engineer Museum is a 40mm Bofors gun and anchors from *AV1356 Clive Steele*. The New Museum Building was constructed in 1997 to house the Survey Collection after the Survey Corps was re-integrated with the RAE. It also contains model equipment bridges, vehicles and field equipment, and the Water Transport collection. This will bring back memories for those who served at Chowder Bay, Woolwich and other RAE Tn units. Within this collection is the 1:48 scale model of *AV1356 Clive Steele* constructed by Ian Johnston. It is housed here temporarily until approval is obtained to place it in the Australian War Memorial.



Property for sale

Ties (new stock arriving soon)	\$25.00	LSM Lapel Badge	\$12.00
Association Book	\$30.00	Collar Badge	\$6.00
25th Anniversary Plaque	\$25.00	Flag, RAE Afloat	\$50.00
Association Woven Patch	\$8.00	Association Cap Navy Blue	\$12.00
Association Polo Shirt (navy blue only) made to order			\$30.00
Book "Rolling Through 32" (includes postage)			\$45.00

Please contact Ken Shannon 02 9871 4667 or property@32smallshipsqn.org.au

Disclaimer

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE Association Incorporating RAE Tn.

Contributions

Contributions are welcome from members and their families of anything that is of interest of members. So, if you would like to contribute it doesn't have to be typed or in electronic form (although that helps). Just send it to the editor at

editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au

or to

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12 Philip Mall
WEST PYMBLE 2073**

Email and Postal Addresses

Please let the Association know if you get a new email address or change your current one. The same goes for your postal address. Remember, we want to keep in touch with you!



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